

# Sable Points BEACON

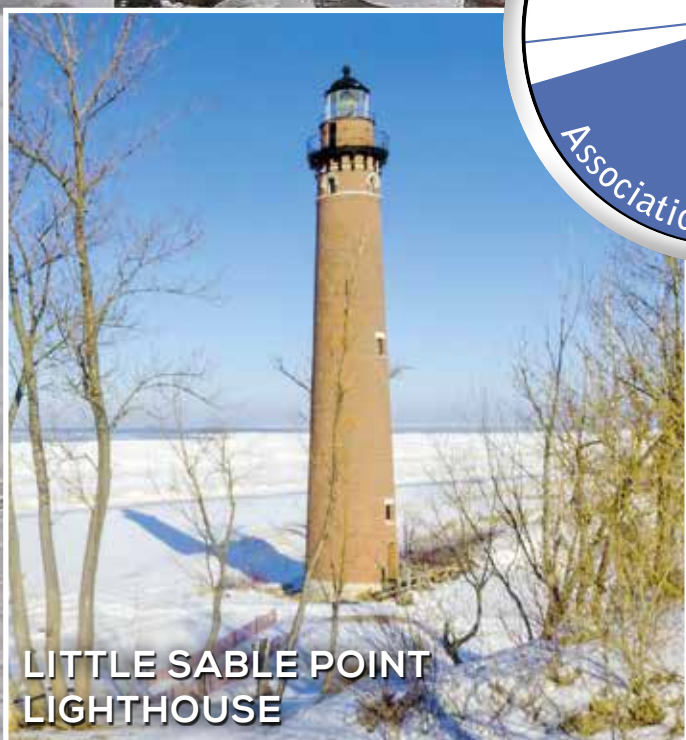
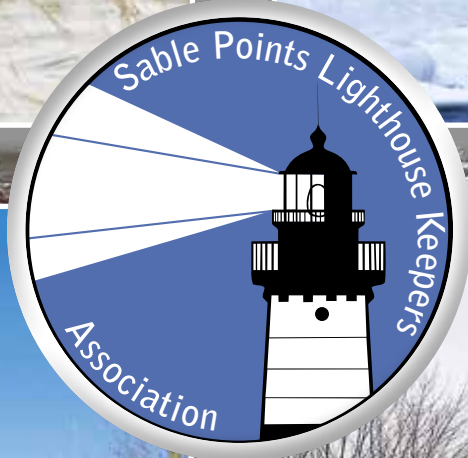
NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 2022



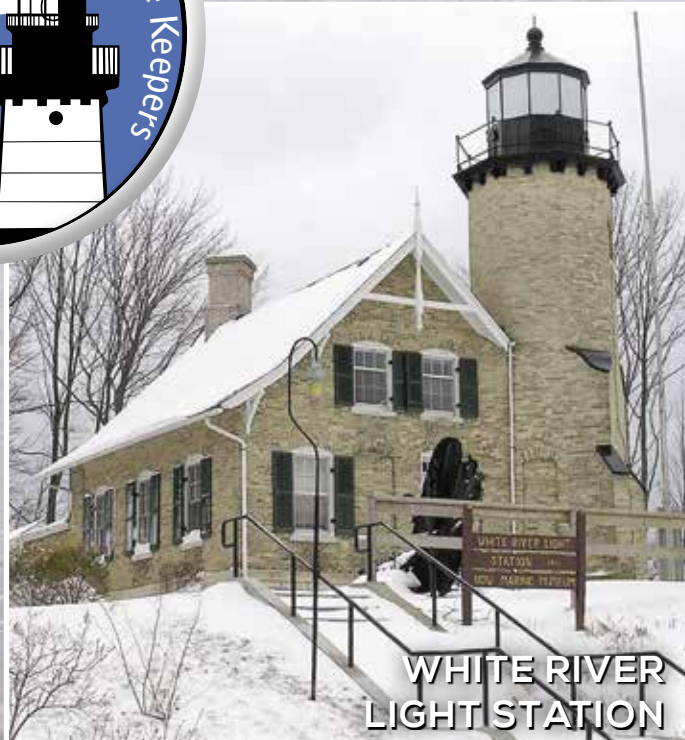
**BIG SABLE POINT  
LIGHTHOUSE**



**LUDINGTON NORTH  
BREAKWATER LIGHT**



**LITTLE SABLE POINT  
LIGHTHOUSE**



**WHITE RIVER  
LIGHT STATION**

# LEAVE A PRINT IN THE SAND

"HAPPINESS IS RIGHT HERE"  
"THAT'S A LOT OF WATER"  
"WE MADE IT DAD!"  
"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"  
"YEARS OF FAMILY MEMORIES"

These are some of the inscriptions on the walkway around the Big Sable Point Lighthouse. The Leave a Print in the Sand program helps SPLKA raise funds for capital preservation projects identified by the SPLKA Board of Directors at all four of our lighthouses. Since SPLKA started offering customized walkway boards in July 2014 at the Big Sable Lighthouse, we have raised over \$54,000 which has been added to the SPLKA capital campaign fund on deposit at the Mason County Community Foundation. Since then, we have also made boards available at the Little Sable Lighthouse and the White River Light Station. A total of 715 boards at Big Sable, 97 at Little Sable and 25 at the White River Light Station have been sold and installed around the lights. That's a grand total of 837 boards.

Purchasing personalized walkway boards is a fun way to help SPLKA preserve our lighthouses. These boards are becoming the new walkway around Big Sable, a connecting walkway to the gift trailer at Little Sable and part of the wheel chair ramp to the keeper's workshop at the White River Light Station. The cost of an engraved board is \$100. Each board can be engraved with up to 25 characters on a line, including commas and spaces, with a two-line maximum.

Whether you are memorializing your visit or making a tribute to someone special, a walkway board is a meaningful way to insure the preservation of four of Lake Michigan's iconic lighthouses.

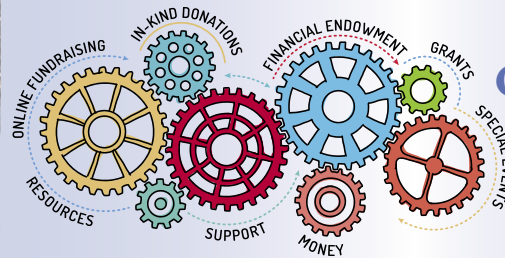
"LIFE'S AN ADVENTURE"  
"I CLIMBED ALL 130 STEPS"  
"SURVIVED THE DEATH MARCH"  
"HERE OUR SPIRITS SOAR AS EAGLES"  
"BSP MY HAPPY PLACE"  
"RNF THE WIND BENEATH MY WINGS"

Brochures are available for downloading and printing on our web site at <https://www.splka.org/sandprints.html> or by calling the SPLKA office at 231-845-7417. Please help SPLKA continue to meet its mission to preserve our magnificent lighthouses for generations to come.

Link to  
downloadable  
brochure for  
"Leave a Print  
in the Sand"



Be a part of the preservation of SPLKA's lighthouses  
and towers by purchasing a Trex board.  
Boards are available to be placed at Big Sable,  
Little Sable and White Lake.



## Capital Campaign Year End Update 2021:

The capital campaign for phase one of the projects that have been identified by the SPLKA Board of Directors is marching forward. Even with all of the efforts directed toward raising funds for operations as we were shut down in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have managed to add funds to the campaign. Our capital campaign fund now stands at \$170,000, which is \$15,000 over this time last year.

Phase one includes repairing the 139 holes in the steel cladding on the Big Sable Lighthouse tower. Once the cladding is repaired, the tower will need to be painted.

Phase one also includes funding a historic structure report for the Big Sable Point Lighthouse. A historic structure report provides documentary, graphic, and physical information about a property's history and existing condition. Broadly recognized as an effective part of preservation planning, a historic structure report also addresses management or owner goals for the use or re-use of the property. It provides a thoughtfully considered argument for selecting the most appropriate approach to treatment, prior to the commencement of work, and outlines a scope of recommended work. The report serves as an important guide for all changes made to a historic property during a project (repair, rehabilitation, or restoration) and can also provide information for maintenance procedures. Finally, it records the findings of research and investigation, as well as the processes of physical work, for future researchers.

Our goal is within reach. Our fund is at 75% of our goal of \$225,000. The SPLKA Board of Directors has directed all year-end fund raising efforts toward reaching this goal. We have \$55,000 to go. SPLKA continues to apply for grants to help offset the funds we need to raise, but many funders have switched their focus from historic preservation efforts to COVID-19 relief efforts for the next few years. We continue to need your help to achieve this goal. An opportunity for you to participate as the year comes to an end occurs on Giving Tuesday which is November 30. All year-end gifts will be added to the campaign fund this year. Please consider your year-end gift to SPLKA to make the impact that SPLKA needs to start on the above two projects in 2022. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed. Our mission continues to be the preservation of our iconic lighthouses. Funds can be donated on our web site [www.splka.org](http://www.splka.org) or can be sent into the office addressed to SPLKA, P.O. Box 673, Ludington, MI 49431.

## Letter from the President

**D**ear Friends, “Wow! I can see the whole world from here!” This was the exclamation of a four-year old at the top of the Big Sable tower back in August. Have you experienced that feeling yourself?

If you were able to join us at the annual dinner and meeting this past September, you heard me tell that story. Actually, the young man made that exclamation while my wife, Nancy, was at the top. During one of my tower-top shifts, I had a “mature” gentleman make a similar exclamation, but without as much emphasis. I suspect the old guy experienced almost as much excitement as the young guy – he just didn’t emote quite as much.

During that same tour, our little group hosted a film crew from Kentucky. They were shooting footage for a children’s TV series to air in the spring of 2022. In addition to being polite professionals, they also exhibited the same wonder and awe as the kids they film for. The on-air member of their crew explained to us that the real impetus for these programs is adventure. “Young families are looking for new adventures they can do with their kids,” he explained. “And what better place than the shores of Lake Michigan.” It also helped that he was actually a native of Ann Arbor, even though he makes his home in Kentucky now.

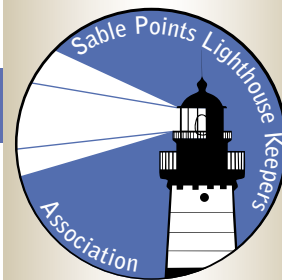
The point of these stories is that there is always a sense of wonder, awe and adventure around our lights. We have such a tremendous resource to share with others, and it is our privilege (and responsibility) to do just that. I spoke to that effect at the meeting and seek to reinforce that message here. We each have our own reasons for visiting our lights and volunteering. Maybe they hearken back to family trips or are reunions with friends. Maybe the lake calls us. Perhaps we see our visits as getting back to a simpler life with no cell phones or internet. Whatever our reason, we are there for many, many first-time visitors. Think of your first visit, whether it was White River or Little Sable or either of the Ludington lights – weren’t you captivated by the view, the beauty, the majesty of the environment? I love to share that feeling with as many people as I can.

I am cautiously optimistic that I can make this statement: we made it through the pandemic. Every time I think it’s safe to say that, we get hit with another variant or public health directive, but I believe – this time – we can say COVID is behind us. Organizationally, we survived. Collectively, we’re stronger for it. SPLKA was tested, and we passed with flying colors. I believe that a big part of that is the positive, can-do attitude of our members, staff and volunteers. It’s because of you that we can provide those wonder and awe moments to our visitors.

As we come to the close of the year, we come to the close of one board member’s term. Roger Pashby has been a member of our board for eight years (two years appointed and two three-year terms elected). On behalf of the board, I thank him for his dedicated service to our association. Succeeding him as a new director is Rob Vensas from Grand Rapids, Michigan. We welcome Rob to the board as he begins his first three-year term.

While it’s easy to look in the rearview mirror and pat ourselves on the back, we can’t afford to take our foot off the gas. Let’s stay positive, keep looking forward and do everything we can to keep our lights shining and make the visitor experience better and better. Nancy and I hope you and your family have a holiday season full of wonder and awe and look forward to new lighthouse adventures next year.

Regards, *Al Cocconi* President, SPLKA



### 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Al Cocconi**  
PRESIDENT

**Mark Hallenbeck**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**Ted Robinson**  
TREASURER

**Roger Pashby**  
SECRETARY

**Sara Anne Hook**  
DIRECTOR

**Susan Land**  
DIRECTOR

**Larry Stulz**  
DIRECTOR

### STAFF

**Peter Manting**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Cherie Hockenberger**  
ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

**Matt Varnum**  
WRLS CURATOR

**Rachel Bendele**  
OPERATIONS/ GIFT SHOP MANAGER

**Jim Hardie**  
RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

**Carol Cooper**  
BOOKKEEPER

2020-2021

# Shining lights



AWARD WINNERS

**2020-MARY JAMES**  
**2021-PATRICK and PATRICIA PATTERSON**

.....  
*At the SPLKA annual dinner on September 18, 2021, we recognized our shining light award winners for both 2020 and 2021. The purpose of the Shining Light Award is to recognize someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the fulfillment of the mission of the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association. That mission is to preserve, promote, and to make our lighthouses accessible to all.*

Our Shining Light Award winner for 2000 would like to think that she left some footprints in the sand at the Big Sable Point Lighthouse. Boy has she ever. Recruited by Dick Smith, along with her friend Robert Sperling, they came up to work a June bus day in 1992. She was immediately hooked on Big Sable Point Lighthouse and the quest to preserve it for future generations. While Robert took on one repair or maintenance task after another, she used her skill set to become a board member, secretary of the board, president of the board, and in 2000 the first director of the association.

Our 2020 Shining Light award winner is Mary James. The list of things that Mary has accomplished is amazing. She initiated our live-in volunteer program, starting with one couple living and opening the



lighthouse a few days a week for several weeks that first summer. The following year three couples each served one-month tours keeping Big Sable open for three summer months. The schedule continued to expand, with thirteen couples living and working at the light on two-week tours for four months. Eventually, the program evolved into what it is today, a season of two-week tours lasting for seven months. The BSP volunteer program has been replicated by other lighthouse groups in Michigan, Florida, on the east coast and on the west coast. During the first eight years of the development of the volunteer program, Mary retained her real job at Grandville Public Schools and regularly “commuted” from Grand Rapids to the lighthouse to train and provide oversight for the volunteers throughout the summer, often staying there for several days at a time.

Other accomplishments include a program for school children called “Lighthouse in the Sand Dunes” developed in conjunction with Alan Wernette, the Ludington State Park interpreter. She worked with the Michigan Historical Commission finalizing and installing the Michigan historical marker at BSP and facilitated the lease with the Bureau of Land Management that was signed in 2003. She also developed the first membership brochures and rack cards that were placed in the local hotels, visitor centers, and tourist attractions throughout the area.

Mary was executive director from 2000 to 2002 when an accident occurred in the downstairs suite at Big Sable. Due to complications and facing more surgery to repair her badly broken leg, Mary had to resign from her position in June of 2002.

At the request of the SPLKA Board of Directors, Mary returned in 2009 as interim director as the search for a new director was taking place.

Since 2016 Mary has worked behind the scenes actively editing and proofing the SPLKA newsletter. She and Jacquelyn McShulskis have been researching and publishing a series of articles on the history of SPLKA for the newsletter.

*It is with great pleasure that on behalf of the SPLKA Board of Directors, SPLKA staff and the SPLKA membership that we recognize Mary James as the 2020 recipient of the SPLKA Shining Light Award.*

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

I find myself in the unusual and slightly awkward position of editing an article about myself as the recipient of the Shining Light Award. Regretfully, I was unable to attend the presentation in person, but how much fun it would have been to share the spotlight with Pat and Pat Patterson, two of my very most favorite volunteers from the early days of the program. We toughed it out together when the furniture was rickety, there were maybe three electrical outlets in the keepers’ quarters, no one had a cell phone, and the phone line to the lighthouse worked about half the time. Everything Peter wrote about the Pattersons was just as true back then as it is today, and they cheerfully performed every task assigned to them. Ask them sometime about how much fun it was to close out the register on the old DOS computer we had in the gift shop.

The most gratifying thing for me is that the volunteer program we established all those years ago is still thriving and attracting folks like the Pattersons who return year after year. Thank you for the honor of this award. While I may have been the engineer and the organizer of the volunteer program, it only succeeded because of the hundreds of hard workers who gave the tours, swept the sidewalks, counted the money, cleaned the latrines, emptied the trash, and never stopped smiling. They are the real reason that the exemplary volunteer program of the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association is such an enduring success. ~Mary James

# Shining lights



## AWARD WINNERS

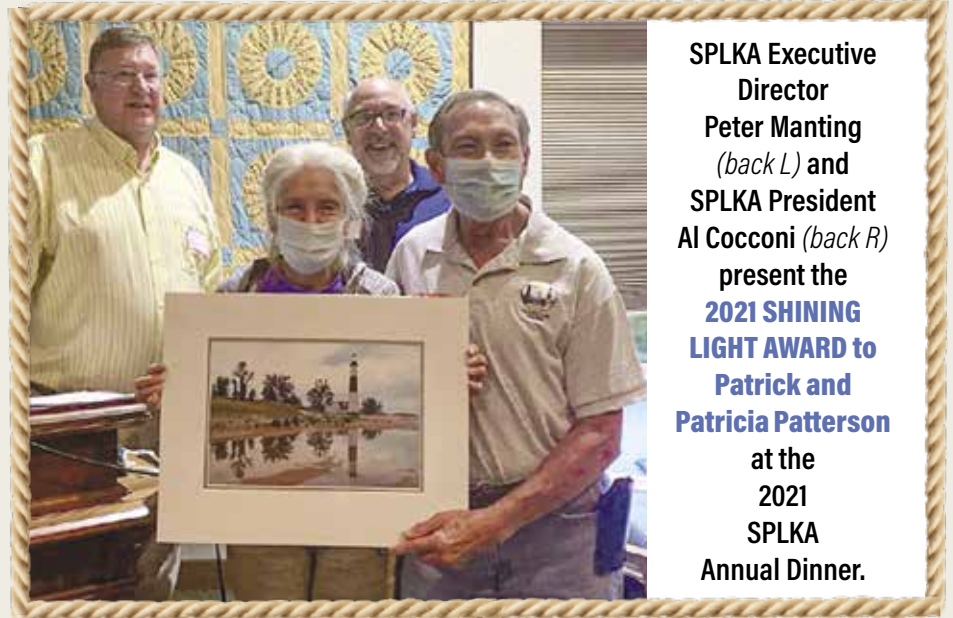
**2020-MARY JAMES**  
**2021-PATRICK and**  
**PATRICIA PATTERSON**

*Our Shinning Light Award winners for 2021 were nominated by several keepers who have served with them over the last 21 years. They exemplify the epitome of a true keeper. They work from sunup to sundown, doing whatever is necessary to preserve not only SPLKA's lighthouses but lighthouses around the country. Patrick and Patricia Patterson are always ready, willing and able to fill in and help out whenever called upon.*

One of the groups that worked with the Pattersons this summer described them as "kind, fun, caring, wise and very knowledgeable about our lights." They had the extreme pleasure of working with Pat and Pat this summer and were blown away by their "kindness and caring toward our visitors and fellow keepers."

An illustration of their capabilities and commitment occurred recently when a family arrived at Big Sable in a thunderstorm. The father and nine of his children arrived in the storm only to realize that they had lost the 10th child, his 3 1/2 year old son, on the Lighthouse Trail leading out to Big Sable. After alerting staff at the State Park about the

## AWARD WINNERS, cont.



**SPLKA Executive  
Director  
Peter Manting  
(back L) and  
SPLKA President  
Al Cocconi (back R)  
present the  
2021 SHINING  
LIGHT AWARD to  
Patrick and  
Patricia Patterson  
at the  
2021  
SPLKA  
Annual Dinner.**

missing boy, Pat and Pat, along with the other keepers, took the family in. They loaned them dry clothes to wear while they put the family's wet clothes in the dryer. They fed them and comforted them during their hour of panic until their brother had been found. Once again, the Pattersons went over and above to make sure that everyone was taken care of, and afterwards eleven happy visitors were sent off with unforgettable memories.

As executive director, I distinctly remember the first time the Pattersons contacted me to request a reference to be keepers for another lighthouse organization. I told them I would only write the recommendation if they promised that they were still coming back to SPLKA for the next season. They promised, and they have since had many other lighthouse adventures which they are always ready to relate to SPLKA staff and other volunteers.

Pat and Pat are not only fixtures at Big Sable, but they are equally well known at Little Sable. A visit by Pat and Pat is

anticipated each season by many of the Pentwater, Hart, Shelby and Silver Lake merchants when Pat and Pat make their annual rounds personally delivering lighthouse rack cards.

I have it on good authority, from the U.S Postal Service which is Patricia's former employer, that Pat and Pat have changed their summer mailing address to 5610 Lighthouse Road, which, if you don't know, is the address for the Big Sable Point Lighthouse. They are planning to serve SPLKA lights for another 21 years.

It is with great pleasure that on behalf of the SPLKA Board of Directors, SPLKA staff and SPLKA membership that we recognize Pat and Pat Patterson as the 2021 recipients of the Shining Light Award.

Mary James and the Pattersons will have their names added to the plaque honoring SPLKA's Shining Light Award recipients which is displayed in the gift shop at the Big Sable Point Lighthouse.



Help further our mission with the

## IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

\$100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to a non-profit organization, including the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association, without having to recognize the distribution as income.

Congress has now extended the IRA charitable rollover, and made it permanent. This could be an easy way for you to support the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association. The charitable IRA rollover, or qualified charitable distribution (QCD), is a special provision allowing taxpayers aged 70 1/2 or older to transfer up to

# Notes FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



by Peter Manting  
SPLKA Executive Director



*Our Mission is to preserve, promote and educate the public and make our lighthouses accessible to all.*

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As you read this, the 2021 lighthouse season is in the books. Our lighthouses are now closed for the season, and we are planning for 2022. What a year this has been. It was good to see so many of you return to your volunteer keepers' positions after our 2020 year of uncertainty. Thank you all for helping us reopen with all the required precautions and the state-mandated mask policies. As we started the 2021 season there remained some uncertainty in the air but, as in the movie *Field of Dreams*, we opened and people came. There was pent-up energy to get out and visit places that were closed in 2020. We saw this same energy with our volunteers as they came back to open our lighthouses. My Thursday morning coffee meetings at Big Sable and Friday afternoon visits to LNBL and Little Sable were full of lots of good conversation and laughter.

Many of our visitors commented on the outstanding condition of our lights and the residences. Those volunteers serving at the Little Sable Point Lighthouse found the plaster on the inside of the tower brightened with a new coat of paint and commented on how light the inside of the tower is now. Painting just the plaster showcases the red brick construction of the tower in areas where the plaster has fallen off.

Those who stayed in the front rooms at Big Sable were excited to see plaster

work had been done and the cracks in the ceiling repaired. The addition of a larger refrigerator in the Big Sable keepers' quarters and new cabinets in the kitchen were long-awaited improvements. Keepers billeted at the Ludington North Breakwater Light keepers' residence were greeted by new paint and a total makeover of the living and dining room areas.

Even though we struggled in 2020 with the lights closed, we managed to keep our staff working and our volunteers engaged. The year 2020 gave our organization a chance to put our goal committees to work. Goal committees include board members and members at large, pulling from a greater base of knowledge and experience. If you would like to be involved as a committee member, please contact me. We welcome input from all SPLKA members who would like to serve. Most meetings are on Zoom, eliminating the need to travel to Ludington to participate. Our committees are making significant contributions to our mission.

Our SPLKA Strategic Goal #1 Finance Committee meets regularly and is looking for opportunities to make sure that SPLKA remains on a stable financial footing. You will read in this newsletter about our new **Keepers of the Light Legacy Society**, which came out of Goal Committee #1. This is one way to ensure that SPLKA continues to fulfill its mission for years to come.

Participating in Ludington's Blessing of the Boats raised over \$8,000 toward our general operations this year. The finance committee is looking at other fundraising projects to support our preservation work.

The restoration committee is tasked with Goal #2 of the SPLKA Strategic Plan. The committee has produced a list of important projects and set goals for further restoration. The improvements inside the Little Sable Point tower are just one example. The committee this

fall is overseeing the replacement of the rotted window frames for the small tower windows. Both the storm windows and the inside windows will have new period window frames and period hardware so that they will look, as the American Pickers say, "like they were new old stock." Money for this project came from a grant awarded by the Oceana Community Foundation. The restoration committee is also directing the task of rebuilding the outhouses at Big Sable, and they are looking into replacing the generator at Big Sable with a larger unit that will power the entire facility. We want to keep our light shining even when the power goes out.

The SPLKA Strategic Goal #3 Education Committee produces content and lesson plans which meet or exceed the State of Michigan school standards. This content is available on our website to be used by teachers or home-school parents. It is so rewarding to see all the people involved on the education committee Zoom meetings. New materials will include interviews with Big Sable volunteers who were at the lighthouse when some major events took place, lessons on shipwrecks, writing haiku and communication in Morse Code.

Our new Goal #4 Social Media Committee will be helping us communicate with all ages over current and future social media platforms. Recently, SPLKA and Big Sable were featured on a Facebook Live program on the National Geographic Travel Channel. The social media committee has also put together a SPLKA members and volunteers Facebook page and helped secure other opportunities for SPLKA to be featured on several different radio programs in the Midwest.

Many thanks to our members for your generosity last year and once again this year as we worked to raise funds to meet grant match challenges. Due to your support and grants

# Notes

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, cont.

received in the past years, we were able to stay afloat without having to borrow from our capital campaign funds.

My last video appeal in July was successful, as we raised exactly the \$15,000 we needed to receive the \$15,000 match. I had a bottle of champagne ready and was all set to do a celebration video announcing our success when I took what my tennis partner said was the most spectacular fall he had ever seen on the tennis court. (I am certainly glad it wasn't recorded as I sure it would have been on America's Funniest Home Videos.) With my arms in braces and my face looking like Mike Tyson beat me up, I decided not to panic the membership and assumed a little bit of a lower profile in the weeks that followed. I still cannot open the Champagne bottle, and I am saving it for my year-end video to celebrate 2021 and the promise of a better 2022, both here at SPLKA and on the tennis courts.

The capital campaign fund, even during COVID, grew almost \$20,000 since the end of 2019. At our last in-person annual meeting in 2019, we kicked off our fundraising efforts to raise \$225,000 to repair the Big Sable Point tower and to fund a historic structure report for Big Sable. The

fund has now grown to over \$170,000. Of that \$20,000 increase from the end of 2019, \$5,300 came from the sale of our walkway boards. The customized walkway boards at our lights continue to be a steady fund raiser for our organization. If you haven't purchased one for yourself or as a gift, now would be a great time to do that so the board will be out next May for you to visit. As of this writing, we have sold 837 total boards, 715 Boards at Big Sable, 97 at Little Sable and 25 at White River.

We are 75% to our goal of \$225,000, and our fundraising and grant writing efforts are now all focused on getting us to that goal. It is our intent to come close to reaching the goal by the end of this year. An envelope has been included with this newsletter to assist you in helping us with a year-end gift.

Our evening music programming at our lighthouses continues to attract crowds. White River attendance showed the most growth. One evening we had over 80 people in attendance, and the music and beer event at White River offers a great social opportunity in the White Lake area. We experienced only our second rain-out in seven years of programming at the Little Sable Point light this year. The music on bus days

at Big Sable was also very well received. New this year was Gordie the Grinder. Special thanks to Gordie Davidson who made this day so special with his interactive presentation. It got everyone involved, and there certainly were many Facebook posts and videos from those in attendance that day. SPLKA's plans are to continue to provide music programming in 2022.

To all of our members and volunteers, both seasoned and new, you continue to amaze me and the many thousands of visitors that you welcome to our lights. Your support, knowledge and love for our four lighthouses is unparalleled. You graciously welcome and help transport our visitors back to a time when our lights were home to lighthouse keepers and their families. Thank you for all of the hours that you have contributed to building SPLKA and furthering our mission.

On September 12, 2021, I finished eight years at the helm of this unique organization. I am proud to be part of SPLKA's leadership and to continue my role in keeping the Great Lakes maritime history alive by preserving and promoting these historical landmarks. ~ *Keeping the Lights Shining,*

*Peter Manting, SPLKA Executive Director*

### 2021 LIGHTHOUSE OPERATIONS INFORMATION & FUN FACTS

	BIG SABLE	LUDINGTON BREAKWATER	LITTLE SABLE POINT	WHITE RIVER LIGHT
# of Climbs	14572	5528	18381	4098
Climbs +/- 2019	-3384	-1985	-5784	-940
Busiest Day of the Week	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday	Saturday
	Sunday	Saturday	Saturday	Sunday
	Tuesday	Friday	Wednesday	Tuesday
	Thursday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Friday
	Friday	Wednesday	Friday	Wednesday
Slowest Day of the Week	Wednesday	Thursday	Thursday	Thursday
Busiest Times of Day (Peak)	12pm-1pm	1-2pm	1-2pm	11 am -12pm
Busiest Day of the Year	July 8th	May 30th	July 21st	July 24th

#### IN 2021 IN THE OPERATIONS SCHEDULE FOR ALL FOUR LIGHTHOUSES WE HAD:

- A combined 171 bedroom spaces or scheduling slots for resident volunteers - filled by 219 volunteers
- 28 cancellations- up 5 from 2019
- 45 New Keepers- up 14 from 2019
- 1 couple who served 10+ weeks, 1 who served all four lights, 8 who served 3 weeks or more
- 26 day keepers who helped at Little Sable on Mondays
- 8 day keepers who helped at Ludington Breakwater
- 11 day keepers at White River Light
- 30 Volunteers for Bus Days at BSP
- 8 Volunteers for Night at the Lights

# Keeper's Notes

## THE WHITE RIVER CURATOR REPORT/FALL-WINTER 2021-22



by **Matt Varnum**  
CURATOR  
White River  
Light Station & Museum



*Our Mission is to preserve, promote and educate the public and make our lighthouses accessible to all.*

As the 2021 season ends, there is time to look back and review all that took place here at the White River Light Station & Museum. We had many visitors from near and far stop by to enjoy the museum. In the visitors' sign-in book, I counted 40 states and 3 countries.

During this season we had several concerts on the grounds of the light station, all of them very well attended. Our annual beer and wine fundraiser netted about \$900 for restoration and maintenance work at the White River Light Station & Museum. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped out here at the museum during the past year. All the help that each and every one of you provided is greatly appreciated.

The 2021 season saw the debut of a new hands-on activity located in the Middleton Room of the museum. The nautical knot tying exhibit attracted lots of attention. Thanks to Jim Hardie for the amazing job he did in building the stand for the activity and to Austin Glerum for his help in getting the tablets programmed for the activity.

During the upcoming off season, I will again schedule presentations within the White Lake community to

discuss the White River Light Station and recruit new volunteers. I will also be rotating artifacts and creating some new exhibits. A new activity for kids is planned, and next year there will be a new information panel outside the lighthouse with information about the channel that connects White Lake to Lake Michigan.

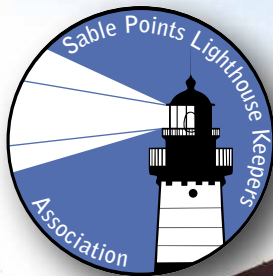
We look forward to another successful season of concerts, yoga, and other events next year. The White River Light Station & Museum, like our other lighthouses, will need volunteers for 2022. If you are interested in volunteering at the light station or have questions, please contact me at 231-894-8265 or whiteriverlight@gmail.com.

I hope to see you all here again during the 2022 season.

~ Respectfully Submitted By,  
Matt Varnum

Just in time for the season, SPLKA is announcing the "All Access Pass". These passes offer visitors a reduced rate to climb all four towers. Passes can be purchased by contacting the SPLKA office by phone at **231-845-7417**, email at **splkaofficemanager@gmail.com** or at any of our four SPLKA lights. Passes are priced at \$15.00 for students (17 and under) and \$25.00 for adults (18 and over). Students save \$5.00 and adults save \$7.00 over the cost of individual tower climbs. Passes are good for the entire 2022 season.

**SPLKA invites you and your family to come climb a lighthouse and create priceless memories!**



**Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association** invites you to

# go climb a Lighthouse!

## Purchase an ALL ACCESS PASS for 2022



# Rachel's Corner



**by Rachel Bendele**  
SPLKA Operations  
Gift Shop Manager



*Our Mission is to preserve, promote and educate the public and make our lighthouses accessible to all.*

Trees are changing colors. The campgrounds are less occupied. Traffic is lighter. Two lighthouses have closed for the season. Big Sable and White River are slowing down, soon to be closed as well. Although our lighthouse season is coming to an end, the fall air is so refreshing and welcomed. It's been a great year, and we have a lot to be grateful for.

Last year, many volunteers expressed how much they missed spending time



at the lights. This year it was a delight to see the joy in your faces and hear in your voices just how happy you were to be back serving the lights. It was so nice having you back with your smiling faces welcoming us to the lights!

There have been many challenges over the past year and a half. One, I didn't expect was how hard it would be

to get merchandise and keep the stores stocked this year, especially since I order the bulk of it in November through January. Nonetheless, it was a big challenge this year with the production and shipping industries affected by the pandemic. Some orders were delayed for months, some were cancelled. Our lights and visitors were hungry for more.

Anyone who visited in August knows we were "lightly stocked" as we waited for orders to arrive. Some did finally arrive but not until after LNBL and LSP closed for the season. BSP was still open, and we were able to restock for the end of September. Our keepers and fall visitors were pleasantly surprised to have a nice selection of items and sizes to choose from.

More importantly, it was wonderful just to have our lights open and alive again. Volunteers were eager to be back, and visitors expressed excitement that we were open and offering tours of the lighthouses.

Thanks to our members, volunteers, and donors, we endured the shutdown and came back shining brightly for so many this year. Here are stories from visitors and keepers who will have happy memories of our lights.

*"My family recently visited all four lighthouse locations while on a road trip in Western Michigan. We let our lighthouse-obsessed 5-year-old choose which one he wanted to tour, and without hesitation, he decided on the North Breakwater*

*Light. He was so proud of himself for making it all the way up and back down the stairs, so I let him get a souvenir, and he instantly chose the green frisbee.*

*He was extremely excited to take his frisbee and lighthouse activity book to show & tell when he begins kindergarten next week, but our neighbor's dog just tore the frisbee to shreds. Is there any*

## FALL-WINTER/2021-22

*possible way to have one sent to my home? Please help me mend my little boy's broken heart!"*

Immediately I found a frisbee, and after few email exchanges I put a package together and included a couple of other items. We received a nice thank-you card and a picture of James, smiling ear to ear, a smile to light up the room and maybe a future lighthouse keeper.

A grandmother contacted me about her young granddaughter who bought a pair of earrings at our lighthouse with a silver lighthouse charm and a piece of beach glass (that comes in different shades). They were her favorite, but one of her earrings had broken. Grandma wanted to replace the earring. Unfortunately, we were all sold out. As we continued to talk, I got to thinking and went back in my stash of damaged merchandise and found a package of damaged earrings - ONE STILL INTACT. Grandma confirmed it was the right color, and I sent this young lady a surprise package with a message from her grandma- Love Grancy. What are the chances that I would have a single earring and in the right color? The light was shining for her!

This year we had three sisters who were able to take time off from work and volunteer together for two weeks living at Big Sable Point Lighthouse. Their story was much deeper than just volunteering. They had a previous connection to the light. They shared memories of their mother bringing them to the lighthouse and how much she loved it and how she dreamed of living there one day. This was way more than just volunteering for these sisters; they were living out their mother's dream, and they were able to do it together. There was more than just one light shining for this tour.

These are just a few of the many stories shared at the lighthouses this year. Our lights are shining brightly thanks to all of YOU!



*Keep shining  
friends.  
~ Rachel*

# Lighthouse Maintenance News

FALL / WINTER 2021-22



**by Jim Hardie**  
Restoration and  
Maintenance Supervisor



*Our Mission is to preserve, promote and educate the public and make our lighthouses accessible to all.*

The 2021 season at our lighthouses saw a return to a degree of normalcy. Our towers were open for climbing and people were coming out to visit. We have had an unusually warm fall season so far, and the pleasant weather has kept people outside visiting the West Michigan coastline. I saw some people swimming in Lake Michigan in early October down by White River. Brrrr, even with warm temperatures, that lake water is too cold for me in October.

To promote public safety, we installed high efficiency air purifiers in our gift shops and residences to help ensure our keepers' and guests' protection to the extent possible. Most people were cooperative with the rules established to promote public safety, and life went on.



frosted window in

Big Sable got its long-awaited new refrigerator in the upstairs kitchen. The south wall of the south outhouse was rebuilt and painted with a new operable place. This has

helped make the outhouse a little more comfortable. The lake has remained at manageable levels this year, and the basement was dry for the season. Thank goodness. We had many new people as volunteers at different times of the year this season. The new opening crews were outstanding and put out all the existing walkway boards in record time. Bob Baltzer, Roger Pashby and Ken Reeves came out for a few days and did some painting and installation of new walkway boards. As always, the assistance is much appreciated.

As we fell into our new groove for this year, carpenter ants decided to make a visit to the Big Sable Point Lighthouse and say hello. Their arrival was unwelcome, and they were promptly and professionally evicted with no further sightings.

Dave Deppe fashioned some new screens for the excessively hot porch that is south facing. A very welcome improvement. I did some mortar and brick repair on the west side of the residence, and Chuck Jameson and Dave Lambkin helped out for a few days painting the west side of the building. It looks great, and their continued help with maintenance issues is very much appreciated. I can always count on them to lend a hand when needed.

We have had a couple of power outages at Big Sable this year. The lines are breaking underground between the campground and the lighthouse. Our existing generator has proven to be both unreliable and inadequate, and we are receiving quotes in the hope of replacing it with a new model which can actually power the entire structure. More on that in the spring newsletter. Lastly, Big Sable got new Internet service this year. The complaints about the Internet needing to be reset have diminished exponentially.

The Breakwater Light and the residence have had a few challenges this year unrelated to lake levels. Complaints started rolling in about the mattresses in the residence being uncomfortable. The one in the lower bedroom seemed to be the worst. I purchased a new one from a local company and thought

all would be well. Unfortunately, the new mattress was defective. Within a month it had failed and was replaced again under warranty. The others will be replaced during this off season. A good night's sleep awaits the keepers at the breakwater residence next season as well as new and improved Internet service.

Toward the end of the summer we had a violent storm that ripped through western Michigan. The 70 mph winds proved too much for our solar panels at the breakwater, and they took flight. We have been unable to locate them, but some say you can see a faint glow coming off the lake bottom a way out. Not really. A new system is planned to be installed for the 2022 season.



A thank you goes out to Dave Rusnell and Larry Stulz from the closing crew at the breakwater this year. They painted all the floors and railings in the



lighthouse along with a fresh coat on the black part of the exterior of the lighthouse. We will be all fresh and ready for the spring. Thanks guys. Good job.

Little Sable has a new Internet system at the house along with a new light fixture in the kitchen. Much improved. The windows in the tower leading up to the top have been removed and methodically refurbished by our window man extraordinaire Dave Deppe. They are much improved as well. We did discover some deteriorated metal halfway up on the outside storm window frame. As happens with old structures, what looked like a simple straightforward repair has become a

## Maintenance News, CONT.

tougher challenge. Rest assured, it will be correctly repaired and no one will be able to tell what was done. Thanks to Bob and Gayle Turnwald for their efforts on opening and closing the lighthouse and residence.

White River was not to be ignored this year. A project was funded by the White Lake Community Foundation, Fruitland Township and SPLKA to reglaze the lantern room. This work was performed by Ludington Paint & Glass and has provided a dry room with a clear view of the lake. A few metal pieces had to be replaced as they disintegrated when the windows were taken out. Almost 150 years of weather have taken their toll on the metal bits. New pieces were fabricated to match the old and it looks seamless. Also, Matt woke up one morning this fall to no water. Turned out we needed to replace the well pump. No worries. He had water the next day, and all is well again.

Thanks again to all who support our lighthouses both financially and with the greatest gift of all. **Time.** You are appreciated and everyone benefits from your generosity and support. Hopefully we will have more great news to report in the spring on the happenings at the lighthouses.

~ Jim Hardie



**Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association**  
**LIGHTHOUSE**  
 Keepers Association  
**Is on Facebook!**  
 Search "Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association" and **LIKE US!**  
<https://www.facebook.com/SPLKA.org/>

## AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM

Amazon Smile is a simple way for you to support the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association every time you shop at no cost to you. When you shop at **smile.amazon.com** you'll find the exact low prices, vast selection and the same convenient shopping experience as *Amazon.com* with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to SPLKA. Already have an Amazon account? Use the same account on *Amazon.com* and **AmazonSmile.com**, your shopping cart, wish list wedding or baby registry and other account settings are also the same. Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Sign up today at AmazonSmile and specify your charitable giving be given to Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association. We thank you for this!



## Renew Your 2022 SPLKA Membership Today!

Your support of the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association means a great deal to S.P.L.K.A. and to the lakeshore communities. We would like to remind you that now is a great time to renew your membership for the 2021 season. Your membership, along with hundreds of others, makes it possible for us to fulfill our important mission to preserve, promote, educate and make accessible Michigan's Maritime History to all through our lighthouses.

Advantages of being a member included being eligible to be a day keeper, (associate membership) or resident keepers, (all other membership level categories) at three of our lights, voting privileges at the annual membership dinner meeting, membership card, window decal, semiannual newsletters, unlimited free admission to all four lighthouses for one year and for memberships head keeper level and above merchandise discount at all of SPLKA gift shops.

2022 membership rates are as follows: Associate member \$30.00, Individual member \$60.00, Couple/Family \$100.00, Head Keeper \$175.00, Business Sponsor \$250.00, Individual Life Time membership \$750.00, Couple/ Family Life Time membership \$1,000.00. The levels and amounts are all the same as the last four seasons.

Your partnership is sincerely appreciated, and we couldn't do this without you. If you have already renewed your 2022 membership please consider giving the gift of membership to a friend or relative who would be interested in joining our cause to restoring, promoting and educating the public and making our castles along the lakeshore accessible to all.

## Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association

### MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2022

associate membership . . . . .	\$30
individual membership . . . . .	\$60
couple/family membership . . . . .	\$100
head keeper . . . . .	\$175
business/corporate sponsor . . . . .	\$250
lifetime individual membership . . .	\$750
couple/family lifetime membership . . .	\$1,000

*Thank you for your continued commitment to our historic structures and our communities' Maritime History.*

# THE HISTORY OF LIGHTHOUSES IN POSTCARDS

by Sara Anne Hook

As stated by George Bernard Shaw, "I can think of no other edifice constructed by man as altruistic as a lighthouse. They were built only to serve." I have loved lighthouses most of my life and am honored to serve as a board member of the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association (SPLKA). I am also a passionate deltiologist and have collected postcards for many years. Postcards are my favorite souvenir for all of my travels, especially since I am not a good photographer. Deltiology is the third most popular collecting hobby, after stamps and currency (coins and bills). Interestingly, the concept of a postcard – a mailing card – was as revolutionary in the late 1800s as some of our new communication technologies have been recently. In fact, email has been cited as the modern equivalent of postcards, primarily for the lack of privacy it offers. You would be surprised at some of the highly personal information that has been shared via postcards. The golden age of postcards is considered to be from 1901 to 1921, and the U.S. was late in adopting this form of communication.



Postcards can be divided into two main categories: real photo postcards that are printed from photographs and the beautiful hand-drawn, colored postcards that are small works of art. I never purchase postcards from the Internet, but instead enjoy the quest of searching through the offerings at postcard shows and antique stores to find just the right addition to the subjects I collect in, most notably musical instruments and cats.<sup>1</sup> Recently I have started to include postcards of SPLKA's four lighthouses as part of my quest. Although there were many postcards of lighthouses from the Atlantic and Pacific oceans at a recent postcard show, it has been a challenge to obtain quality postcards of Great Lakes lighthouses, especially those that are hand-drawn as opposed to real photos.

I love postcards not only for the beauty of the images and as reminders of places where I have been, but also for the historical information that they provide. Certainly, in comparing postcards of SPLKA's lighthouses over many decades, we can track how these lighthouses have evolved, including their physical changes, the landscape around them, how they functioned and how they were perceived and enjoyed by visitors. Consider a postcard of the U.S. Coast Guard station in Ludington, near Ludington North Breakwater, and how the same property looks today. What has changed? What is similar? Postcards of lighthouses are a reflection of maritime

history in the 20th and 21st centuries.<sup>2</sup>

Although many deltiologists prefer pristine postcards that have never been used, I like postcards that have been written on and mailed. Most postcards do not have copyright dates, but a postmark indicates when a postcard was sent, where it was sent from and who it was sent to. Likewise, the cost of the stamp makes it easier to estimate a time period for a postcard. The addresses are interesting, often spare, when there were fewer of us to keep track of, and some of the old-fashioned names on postcards are charming and becoming popular again.

The messages on the backs of postcards reveal the daily lives of ordinary people. For example, a postcard of the U.S. Light House, White Lake, Michigan, postmarked 1909, was sent to someone's mother and indicates that the sender is unpacking, cleaning and swimming, does not have time to write more and hopes that Lucy gets married without any problems. A postcard showing Little Point Sable is postmarked 1936, Chicago, was sent to Faith in Huntington, Indiana, whose husband is Elmer, and reported on the weather at the lake and the conditions of the water. As is typical of postcards of this vintage, the handwriting is tiny and often difficult to read. Consider a postcard of The Badger as it makes its way into Lake Michigan, passing Ludington North Breakwater with a deck full of happy people enjoying the sunshine and each other's company. Note the clothing they are wearing – can you guess the time period that the postcard is from? The caption indicates that this route moves 175,000 passengers, 50,000 automobiles and 100,000 cars of freight across Lake Michigan every year.

I use postcards in my teaching to emphasize particular points in my lesson plans as well as for my own research projects. Postcards are an invaluable and unique primary source for historical research, but are often neglected by scholars and not even mentioned in history texts or guides. Postcards are an especially rich resource for anyone who is interested in local or state history, what is often referred to as "nearby" history. Indeed, many of the people at postcard shows are looking for postcards of hometowns or of places that are special to them. Postcards can supplement the documentation efforts of genealogists, small or specialized museums and historic houses. Failing provides an excellent model for using postcards to examine local history.

## THE HISTORY OF LIGHTHOUSES IN POSTCARDS CONT.

Colleagues at Eastern Illinois University have created an outstanding website with links to postcards from specific places in Illinois, additional resources, access to other collections and helpful information about how to use postcards as historical evidence.<sup>3-4</sup>

One of SPLKA's goals is to organize and digitize its archival collection, which includes postcards as well as other images and documents, making it available to anyone with interest in the history of the Great Lakes. Although we can look at postcards on a website, there is still something magical, something tactile, about being holding a postcard in your hands and looking at your postcard collection as a way to appreciate history as well as your own experiences visiting a special place, such as one of



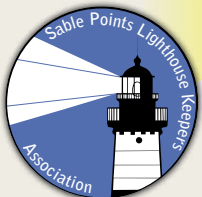
SPLKA's lighthouses.

The next time that you visit one of our lighthouses, please send me a postcard!

1. Moser, Barbara. In the Spotlight: Organology. *Newsletter of the Indianapolis Postcard Club*, June 2012.
2. Hook, Sara Anne. You've Got Mail: Hospital Postcards as a Reflection of Health Care in the Early Twentieth Century. *Journal of the Medical Library Association* 93(3):386-393, July 2005.
3. Failing, Brian J. Examining Local History Through Postcards: A Model for Interactive, Inquiry-Based Pedagogy. *Collections: A Journal for Museum and Archives Professionals* 12(4):419-432, Fall 2016.
4. *Using Postcards as Historical Evidence*, <https://www.eiu.edu/localite/postcardshisthome.php>, accessed 10/15/21.

## Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

By Rachel Bendele



*Volunteers are the life blood of the SPLKA organization. We recognize all of our volunteers and say THANK YOU for all that you do!!*

We always brag about SPLKA having the BEST volunteers, and through all the challenges and changes over the last year you proved us right! There were many who stepped in and helped a little extra, and we'd like to shine some light their way.

We had a couple who helped at our lights for more than ten weeks over the season. Ten weeks! They were scheduled for one tour at Big Sable and picked up an additional three (two-week tours)

when we needed help. They filled in a week at Little Sable and a week at the Ludington Breakwater. They also helped on many Wednesdays filling day keeping needs at Little Sable. We joked that they were going to have to file for a change of address. Not only do they enjoy volunteering at our lights, but each year they spend time distributing rack cards throughout the area promoting our lights as well. Pat and Patricia Patterson have been part of keeping our lights brightly shining since 2000. They were nominated for our shining light award for 2021 and were presented with that honor at our annual dinner. Well deserved!

Pam Ruiter was able to help on several occasions and served at ALL FOUR of our lighthouses throughout the 2021 season. She enjoys helping on the spring cleaning tours (both BSP and LNBL) and setting up the gift shops. She has a great eye for staging merchandise and enjoys perfecting the stores' displays, getting them ready for opening day. Pam has been serving at our lighthouses since 2005.

We had a brand-new-to-SPLKA volunteer this year who enjoyed it so

much she served in many capacities, from full-week tours to day keeping and filling in for emergency cancellations. She also recruited friends to fill in a cancellation at one of our lights later in the summer. Mary Koenen, we look forward to seeing you again in 2022.

Dean Collingwood also comes to mind. As I write this, he is probably preparing to travel to Michigan. After his upcoming tour, he will have served five weeks with us this summer. Dean enjoys volunteering and interacting with the visitors as well as helping with behind-the-scenes work. During the shutdown, he stayed in a hotel for two weeks and helped at Big Sable and White River while opened on the weekends. During the week, he cleaned up around our office and did other maintenance tasks. Dean has been giving his time to SPLKA since 2017.

*I could go on and on celebrating the gifts of our volunteers, but no matter how you were able to help this year or any year, we are grateful for every single one of you who support the lights and keep them shining.*

# 2021 SPLKA ANNUAL DINNER

The SPLKA annual membership meeting was held on Saturday, September 18, at the United Methodist Church in Ludington and attended by 106 SPLKA members. The dinner meeting was sponsored by Ron and Pat Anderson, Julie and Mike Babcock, Bob, Becki and Scott Baltzer, Cartier Manson, Jeff duPuis, House of Flavors of Ludington, Ray and Peggy Schneider, Jay and Ann Sharkey, the SPLKA Board of Directors and the members of the SPLKA Education Committee. THANK YOU to the sponsors who made this a complimentary event for SPLKA members.

Minutes of the 2019 annual membership meeting were presented by SPLKA secretary Roger Pashby and approved by the membership. Reports were given by SPLKA president Al Cocconi, SPLKA treasurer Ted Robinson and SPLKA executive director Peter Manting.



**Roger Pashby is honored for his eight years of service on the SPLKA Board of Directors.**

Roger Pashby was then honored for his eight years of service on the SPLKA Board of Directors. He completed an unexpired term and then served two full terms.

Rob Vensas was elected to his first three-year term on the SPLKA Board of Directors. Al Cocconi and Mark Hallenbeck were each elected to a second three-year term on the SPLKA Board of Directors.

The Shining Light Awards for both 2020 and 2021 were announced by the executive director. Mary James was honored for 2020 and Patricia and Patrick Patterson were honored for 2021.

Board member Susan Land, who due to illness couldn't be in attendance, presented the new "Keepers of the Light Legacy" program to the membership via video.

The evening's program was given by Valerie van Heest from the Michigan Shipwreck Association. Her presentation was on the November 11, 1940, Armistice Day storm during which over 59 sailors lost their lives on Lake Michigan. Valerie focused on the three Lake Michigan

vessels, the *SS William B. Davock*, the *Anna C. Minch* and the *SS Novadoc*. All sank between Pentwater and the Little Point Sable Lighthouse. Her presentation included historic pictures, video, and interviews with survivors of the *SS Novadoc* and relatives of the crew members who lost their lives on the *SS William B. Davock*.

The evening concluded with a call by director Manting to continue to support our capital campaign efforts as we get closer to our \$225,000 goal. A little over \$3,000 was raised for the fund at the banquet that evening.

Mum plants were donated by Roger and Glenna Pashby and were given to one lucky person at each table.

The SPLKA Board of Directors and the staff thank all of our sponsors and everyone who made this memorable evening possible.

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER



### **ROBERT VENSAS :**

The Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association Board of Directors, staff and membership welcome Robert Vensas who was elected to the SPLKA Board of Directors at the membership meeting on September 18, 2021.

Rob has been a member of SPLKA for over 20 years and has volunteered as a keeper since 2002. Rob and his wife Sharon reside in Grand Rapids, Michigan and have been married for almost 50 years. Since retiring, Rob and Sharon have been volunteers at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

Mr. Vensas received his Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Minnesota. He worked for 43 years at URS, an architectural and engineering firm, and retired as Vice President, Manager of Michigan Operations, in 2015. Rob is a registered professional engineer and is also a fellow member of the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers.

Rob's interests include traveling, fly fishing, HO trains, and his granddaughter Mae. He considers it an honor to help preserve a part of Michigan's history for future generations by being a member of SPLKA and serving on the board.

# Year-End *Thanks Giving*

As the leaves turn from fall colors to brown and then to falling from the trees, we are reminded that it is the end of our season and almost the end of the year. This is the season for giving thanks. It is the time for the staff and board to express their gratitude to all of the individual donors and organizations who have made an impact this year with their gifts.

First, we want to say "Thank You" to our members. Over the past year and a half, we have received some very generous matching donations for which you our members stepped up and enabled us to meet the required match. Our last one in June and July was right down to the wire, raising exactly \$15,000 by July 31st. Your support of our fundraising efforts helped SPLKA to continue to meet its operations budget without having to lay off any staff and helping SPLKA to move forward from the COVID-19 shutdown year in 2020.

Grants were received this year from the Mason County Community Foundation which supported a new history video for the Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse, a new refrigerator for the keepers' quarters at Big Sable, and an event tent for some of our music programs. A grant received from the Great Lakes Energy People's Fund was used toward the purchase of new HEPA air purifiers for lighthouses and keepers' residences and other PPP equipment to help keep our volunteers safe from the spread of the COVID virus.

Another grant was received from the Great Lakes People's Fund and one from the Oceana Community Foundation to support SPLKA's efforts to repaint and freshen up the interior of the Little

Point Sable tower. What a difference that made this summer. Our tower climbers were so excited to see the new bright interior as they climbed the stairs.

Just recently SPLKA received an additional grant from the Oceana Community Foundation to help us replace the small window frames for the windows and storm windows in the Little Point Sable tower. This project will be completed by the end of this year. The Little Sable Point Lighthouse is getting ready to celebrate its 150-year anniversary in 2024, and these grants are helping SPLKA ensure that the tower is ready for the big year.

SPLKA also partnered with PNC Bank, the Little Point Sable Seekers, and the Friends of White River in sponsoring and printing 10,000 new activity books for 2021. We refreshed the books by adding new pictures to the back and front covers. This has been a significant undertaking. Since we rolled out this project in September 2014, we have printed and given away 80,000 of these books to the kids visiting our lights.

We were also successful in a few of our smaller COVID-19 grant applications. We were recipients of \$16,000 from the DNR which was paid for from the Recreation Passport Funds collected from the tabs on Michigan license plates.

The SPLKA Board of Directors and staff thank everyone who partnered with us this past year. With their support, SPLKA continued to impact the preservation of our "Castles by the Lakeshore."

*Thankyou!!*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

Thank you!

## NEW COMMITTEE TO ENCOURAGE DAY KEEPER INVOLVEMENT



one mission  
Preserving Lake Michigan Lighthouses

Staffing four lighthouses is a never ending challenge. Collectively, SPLKA has done a good job of staffing with resident volunteers. Our challenge is recruiting day keepers for Little Sable, White River and the Breakwater. Add to this a new concept to offer day keeping at Big Sable. With day keeping volunteers, we could open our lights on Mondays again.

We're forming a new committee to build a Day Keeper program. Wouldn't you like to participate?

Matt Varnum will be the staff point person on this committee. Please let Matt know your interest by emailing him at:

**[whiteriverlight@gmail.com!](mailto:whiteriverlight@gmail.com)**

**NOTE:** The article *Frederick Goes to the Fair* was first published in the September/ October 2021 Lighthouse Digest. It is being reprinted with permission from the Lighthouse Digest. SPLKA was also given permission to publish Mr. Samaulson's Lighthouse Photo Album as well. The article and the photo's give us a great look into the longest serving Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse Keeper. He served for 28 years from 1909 to 1937 overseeing the construction of the North Breakwater light.

As the director of the SPLKA I enjoy finding and sharing new information about those men and women who served at our lighthouses. After reading this article I couldn't wait to share it with all of you.

Thank you, Lighthouse Digest. ~ Peter Manting

## FREDERICK GOES TO THE FAIR

By Debra Baldwin



According to the 1894 *Annual Report of the Light-House Board*, the indoor exhibit contained “lenses, burners and their accessories, the tools used by light-house keepers, the appurtenances of light-houses, the models of light-houses and light-vessels, post lights, gas buoys, whistling buoys, etc., paintings and photographs representing typical light-houses and light-vessels, reports of and to the Light-House Board, and plans and specifications of various light-house structures.” (National Archives)



Lighthouse Service wasn't a very glamorous occupation, and with few exceptions, most keepers lived a life in relative obscurity. Other than drownings, transfers, or murders, they didn't usually receive much press. But occasionally, good deeds, rescues, or awards, such as earning the district efficiency star or the Albert Gallatin Award, might merit a paragraph in a local newspaper; and if keepers retired after many years of service at a single station, they would perhaps get their photo in the paper, accompanied by a short recap of their career.

These were all typical public forms of recognition, but the U.S. Lighthouse Service had its own method to reward keepers for excellent service or going above and beyond the call of duty. The most common way was to receive a letter of official commendation, signed by the District Supervisor, Secretary of Commerce or the Commissioner of Lighthouses in Washington, D.C., in which the keeper was thanked for "services thus rendered which will be noted on the records as part of your official history."

Write-ups from these commendation letters regularly appeared in almost every issue of the monthly Lighthouse Service Bulletin under the heading of "Saving of Life and Property," where keepers and other personnel were listed by name for their meritorious services or assistance rendered in upholding "the traditions of Lighthouse Service."

Sometimes, if the act or rescue had great personal risk involved in saving a life, in recognition of that willingness, a Lighthouse Service employee could receive a more tangible reward of an extra month's pay. This was particularly appreciated by the recipient since their annual salary was usually considered quite meager by normal societal standards.

But, perhaps the best way to reward keepers was to give them an all-expenses paid vacation – well, sort of a vacation – to serve as a docent for the U.S. Lighthouse Service displays at the various World's Fairs and Expositions



**Fred A. Samuelson (far right) stands near a 10-foot-tall model of the Minot's Ledge Lighthouse display at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition in 1898. For over three months, Fred was assigned to supervise the exhibits and act as a docent to visitors attending the fair. (Courtesy of Paige Garwood)**

held every few years. It was considered a great honor to be selected for this appointment, and usually reserved for veteran keepers who could talk knowledgably with visitors about the vast array of lighthouse-related components that made up the normal exhibit.

It also gave the keeper a break from the normal monotony of day-to-day lighthouse duty and a chance to be out and about in public. It was especially exciting to be able to participate in such a great event as a World's Fair, and since the assignment was usually for several months, it really was like taking an extended vacation leave from their isolated lighthouse.

Keepers were usually selected from the district where the exposition was held. There were no set qualifications for expo duty, but it could be expected that they had been awarded the Lighthouse Service's annual efficiency star at least once, or might be close to retirement after decades of exemplary service. They weren't always head keepers, however. Sometimes, they would include first assistants who had been in that role for years, having declined

transfers to another station that would have promoted them to head keeper.

There were always at least two docents assigned to the fair, so they could alternate shifts during the open hours of the exposition. In addition to being well-versed on lighthouse matters, they had to be able to relate well to the public and give a positive impression of the Service by their knowledge, dress and manners.

In the 1894 *Annual Report of the Light-House Board*, a very detailed account was given of the participation by the U.S. Light House Establishment in the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago that year. It was reported that the keeper docent "was on duty in full uniform in connection with the light-house exhibit in the Government building. He will be pleasantly remembered by many visitors for his courtesy, and especially for the intelligent answers he gave to their many questions. This man was a good specimen of his class."

One example of this "good specimen" was Frederick A. Samuelson, a Great Lakes keeper, who served for 43 years total at four different lights in District 9.



The new Chicago Harbor Lighthouse was completed in 1893 in early November right after the World's Columbian Exposition closed. Two months after his brother Albert Samuelson left in 1894, Fred became a keeper here to start his lighthouse-keeping career. (National Archives)

Fred was able to participate in no less than three lighthouse expositions during his long career.

The first time was for the World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago from May 1 to October 30 of 1893. Fred was 21 years old and wasn't a lighthouse keeper yet, but worked for the 9th Lighthouse District as a laborer. He had been employed to help build a tower on a crib inside the Chicago breakwater, which was likely the new Chicago Harbor Lighthouse being constructed in that location, commencing in March of that year.

Fred's brother, Albert S. Samuelson, had already been serving as 2nd assistant at the Chicago Harbor station since 1891. It is highly possible that Albert recommended Fred for employment with the Lighthouse Service. Fred was also noted as helping out with the lighthouse displays for the expo during those summer months of 1893.

After the fair finished and was disassembled, Frederick A. Samuelson officially received his first appointment to the new Chicago Harbor Lighthouse in 1894 as 5th assistant. His brother, Albert, had resigned from the Lighthouse Service in Chicago two months earlier, so unfortunately, they never got to actually serve together.



Fred's brother, Albert S. Samuelson (1869-1944), served as 2nd assistant keeper at Chicago Harbor Lighthouse from 1891 to 1894 when he then resigned and went into the restaurant business, partnering with another brother, Alfred. Albert was probably the reason Fred came to Chicago and became a keeper. (U.S. Lighthouse Society archives)



Frederick Anton Samuelson was born in Manitowoc, Wisconsin on August 1, 1871. When he was two years old, his family moved to Sturgeon Bay, where he later farmed and engaged in the lumber business during his youth. In 1893, when this photo was taken, he went to Chicago and became a laborer for the U.S. Lighthouse Establishment, helping to construct the new Chicago Harbor Lighthouse. (Courtesy of Paige Garwood)



Scaled models of Fowey Rocks (center front) and Minot's Ledge (far right) lighthouses were displayed at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago along with a variety of lighting apparatus, including a hyperradial lens, first and second order Mahan system lenses, fourth order revolving lens, fifth order lens with occulting chimney, range lenses, 5-day and 8-day lens lanterns, light vessel lantern with lamps and reflectors, hand lanterns and electric buoy lanterns, some of which are shown in this photo. (National Archives)

Fred stayed at Chicago Harbor Light until June of 1895 when he transferred to Grosse Point Lighthouse as 1st Assistant for the next three years. In 1898, Frederick was assigned his next "vacation leave" to be in charge of the U.S. Lighthouse Establishment's exhibit in Omaha, Nebraska at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition that was also touted as a world's fair.

The 1893 *Annual Report of the Light-House Board* stated that, "During the continuance of the exposition, the Light-House exhibit was in charge of Mr. Frederick Samuelson, assistant keeper of Grosse Point, Ill. light-station, who was detailed for the purpose upon the recommendation of the district light-house inspector as a mark of appreciation of faithful services."

Fred was initially supposed to be

there for only two months from mid-July until mid-September, but because he did such an excellent job, he received an extension until the close of the fair at the end of October.

The Bureau must have considered Fred's service at the fair to be first-rate because the month following the end of the exposition, he was transferred to North Manitou Island Lighthouse with a promotion as head keeper. It was here that Fred Samuelson met and married his wife, Augusta "Gustie" Swenson, on October 30, 1905, at the lighthouse.

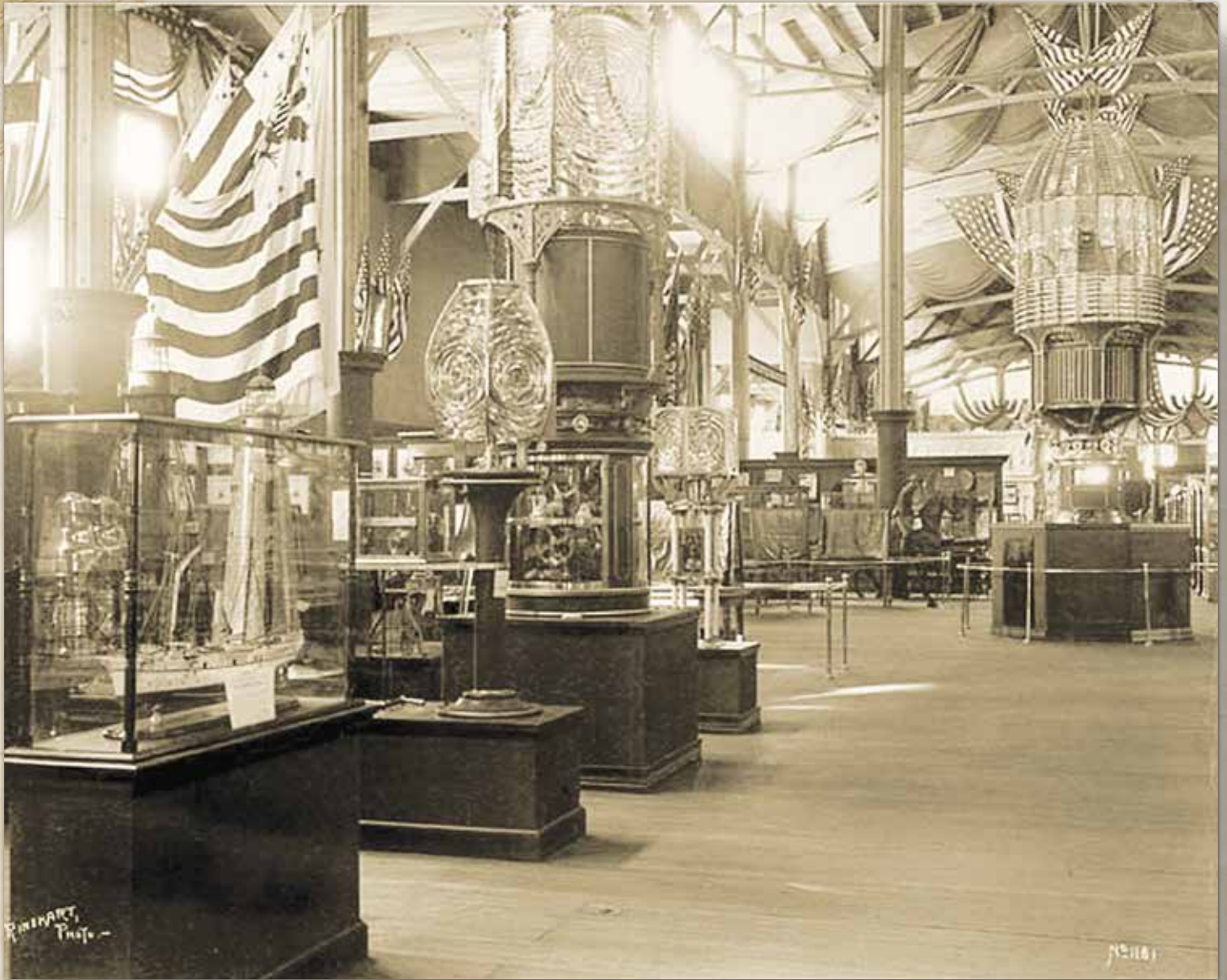
Fred later reminisced about his time on the island, where only a dozen families of farmers, fishermen and light keepers lived an isolated life, 14 miles from the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. There was a 23-foot sailboat at their disposal in the summer and an ice boat for wintertime use that were

their only means of contact with the shore. There were no radios, telephones, or newspapers on the island and during the first winter he was there, Fred said he had no communication with the mainland for eight weeks.

In 1909, after serving at North Manitou Island Light for eleven years, Fred made a final transfer to Ludington North Breakwater Light, where he was head keeper for the next 28 years until his retirement. In 1915, front page newspaper headlines shouted, "EFFICIENCY STAR WON BY KEEPER OF LOCAL LIGHTHOUSE. Fred Samuelson is Presented with U.S. Badge of Honor by the District Inspector. Local Light Station 100 Per Cent Efficient." This was the first time a star had been awarded to Ludington since the rating program had begun a few years earlier.



Frederick A. Samuelson, keeper-in-charge of the 1898 Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition, stands next to a first order lens displayed as part of the lighthouse exhibit. He was given the responsible task " as a mark of appreciation of faithful services." (Coast Guard Historian's Office)



Beyond the usual models of lighthouses, light vessels, buoys, lenses and lanterns, the Lighthouse Establishment display at the 1898 Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition included some interesting items, such as a wick box, buffskins, cotton wipers, feather dusters, hand dust brushes, boxes of diamond polish, sheets of emery cloth and a keeper's library. (*Lighthouse Digest archives*)

Fred later recalled that when he “first started his career on the lakes, Ludington was a lumber city and had no harbor. Barges loaded with lumber here and served communities all over the Great Lakes.... Mr. Samuelson remarked he had many close calls while servicing the lights at the end of the breakwaters although he never once capsized in the boats used to reach the end of the piers.”

One of those white-knucklers was in October of 1925. The *Ludington Daily News* reported that, “Because of a defective switch, the north breakwater light was out Sunday night between 7 and 8 o’clock. Lighthouse Keeper

Fred Samuelson and assistant, John L. Paetschow, rowed to the lighthouse in the gale with a skiff and repaired the switch.” Since other articles dubbed it the worst storm of the season, it was undoubtedly an intense and risky venture to undertake the crossing to the darkened light at night.

A few months later in February of 1926, the light went out again due to a ground or short circuit in the marine cable which supplied power to the lighthouse and fog signal. Fred saw the light flicker and went out at 2AM. This time, however, he did not brave an immediate attempt to repair it.

The newspaper later reported that,

“A high sea was running and breaking over the tip of the breakwater, making a trip to the lighthouse hazardous. Mr. Samuelson informed Pere Marquette Railway Steamship office with the intention of having car ferries in the lake be notified by wireless. He explained that the sea was too rough to attempt a trip to the lighthouse.

“Saturday afternoon, Mr. Samuelson and his assistant, John Paetschow, secured the assistance of Captain Frank Butler on tug *Mercereau* and an emergency lamp was taken to the tip of the breakwater. Similar repair was made to the light on the pier, both repairs being sufficient for the time being only.”



Under the American Flag stands the model of Minot's Ledge Lighthouse and to the left of the first order lens just behind the pedestal, the Fowey Rocks Lighthouse model can be seen on display at the 1898 Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition. Both of these models had been previously exhibited at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 and would continue to be shown at World's Fairs through the next couple of decades. (*Lighthouse Digest archives*)

The district office in Milwaukee was notified and the Superintendent along with four workmen arrived the next morning to initiate more permanent repairs, which required a new compression motor. They also discovered the ground in the cable by cutting a 12-foot hole in the ice and pulling the cable up to fix it. Both Fred and his assistant received acknowledgement for helping in the operation.

There were probably several other instances where Fred was singled out for notoriety in his duties at Ludington Lighthouse that contributed to his selection to once more be in charge of the Lighthouse Service exhibits at his third world's fair, A Century of Progress International Exhibition, held in 1933 and 1934. Also known as the Chicago World's Fair, it marked exactly 40 years

since Fred had been in the employ of the U.S. Lighthouse Service and was a real compliment to his dedication and excellent performance as a keeper to be so honored. It was rare enough for a keeper to be selected once to be in charge, let alone twice.

Fred's wife, Gustie, was able to go along with him in 1934 for at least part of the time and was furnished an exhibitor's season pass. The fair had been so successful when it first ran from May to November of 1933, it was decided to reopen it again from May through December the following year. It was estimated that over 40 million people came to see the exhibits.

After the fair, Fred Samuelson returned to Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse for another three years, retiring on June 30, 1937, after more than four decades of

sterling service. If he had served for just a couple of years longer until the consolidation when the Coast Guard took over the Lighthouse Service in 1939, he would surely have qualified to receive the Albert Gallatin Award from the U.S. Treasury Department to honor his lengthy and notable career.

Frederick and Gustie Samuelson retired to a house on Loomis Street in Ludington, very close to the harbor where he could still keep an eye on the breakwater lights. He enjoyed 13 more years visiting with his children and grandchildren and going out fishing with his friends. Keeper Samuelson passed away at the age of 79 on October 14, 1950, leaving behind a legacy of excellence in the U.S. Lighthouse Service.

This interesting, rare letter from the "Office of Lighthouse Inspection 9th District" informed Fred Samuelson of his duty to care for the lighthouse exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition in Omaha, Nebraska. It also assured him that he would receive "travelling expenses and sustenance" during the months he was assigned to the fair. (Courtesy of Paige Garwood)

OFFICE OF APPOINTMENTS  
Treasury Department,  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D. C. August 11, 1898.

Mr. Fred Samuelson,  
Omaha, Nebraska.

At the request of the Light-House Board, Department letter of June 2, 1898, designating you for the duty of caring for the Light-House Exhibit at the Transmississippi and International Exposition at Omaha, Nebraska, is hereby amended so that your term of duty is extended to the close of the exhibition.

Respectfully, yours,  
  
[Signature]  
SECRETARY.

In August of 1898, Fred received this letter notifying him that his duty would be extended until the end of the Exposition. (Courtesy of Paige Garwood)

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI AND INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION, OMAHA, 1898.  
JUNE 1 TO OCTOBER 31  
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT,  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EXHIBIT.

W. A. HARRIS, Department of War  
C. E. KEESER, Treasury Department  
Major W. S. WARD, U. S. A., War Department  
Lieut. Colonel G. H. STROBER, U. S. A., War Department  
S. A. WOODRUFF, Post Office Department  
J. M. BROWN, Department of Agriculture  
W. F. COX, United States Marine Corps  
W. H. HENNING, Insurance Office  
T. W. GLASS, Department of the Interior  
FRANK CHAMBERLAIN, Department of Justice  
F. W. YESS, Department of Education and General Interest  
W. M. G. BAYNE, Committee of Plans and Statistics

CHIEF, OMAHA July 14<sup>th</sup> 1898

*Very Copy*  
*C. E. Keeser*  
*Dep. Treasury Exhibit*  
*General*

Office of the Secretary  
Washington June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1898

Mr. Fred Samuelson,  
Care Light House Board.

*Sir - You are hereby designated for the duty of caring for the Light House exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition at Omaha, Nebraska, for a period of two months. Your travelling expenses and subsistence will be paid from the appropriation "Trans-Mississippi and International Exhibition".*

*Respectfully yours*  
*(Signed) L. Pluge*  
*Office of Lt. Inspector 9th Dist. Secretary*  
*Chicago Ill. June 11<sup>th</sup> 1898*  
*L. J. D.*

*Respectfully, your obedient servant*  
*John A. Jackson*  
*Chief, Commanding Officer*  
*Inspector of the 9th District*

1934 OF PROGRESS 1934  
A CENTURY OF PROGRESS CHICAGO

SERIAL No. **18570** 1934

**IDENTIFICATION CARD**  
(NOT A PASS)  
F. Samuelson  
EMPLOYEE OF EXHIBITOR  
Office of U. S. Commissioner  
AT A CENTURY OF PROGRESS  
ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS ON PASS  
CENTURY OF PROGRESS CHICAGO

*Fred Samuelson*  
EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE

ISSUED BY  
*Lenox P. Lohr*  
GENERAL MANAGER

PUBLIC HEALTH  
(APPROVED)  
DATE *NOV-34*

Even more rare is this identification card issued to Fred Samuelson as an employee of the exhibitor, "Office of U.S. Commissioner," for the 1933/34 Century of Progress International Exhibition in Chicago. Fred was keeper-in-charge of the lighthouse exhibits at this fair. (Courtesy of Paige Garwood)

2677

**EXHIBITOR'S SEASON PASS**  
**A CENTURY OF PROGRESS**  
ADMIT  
Mrs. F. Samuelson  
TO EXPOSITION GROUNDS  
EXHIBITOR  
Office of the  
United States Commissioner

1934 OF PROGRESS 1934  
A CENTURY OF PROGRESS CHICAGO

*Mrs. F. Samuelson*  
EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE

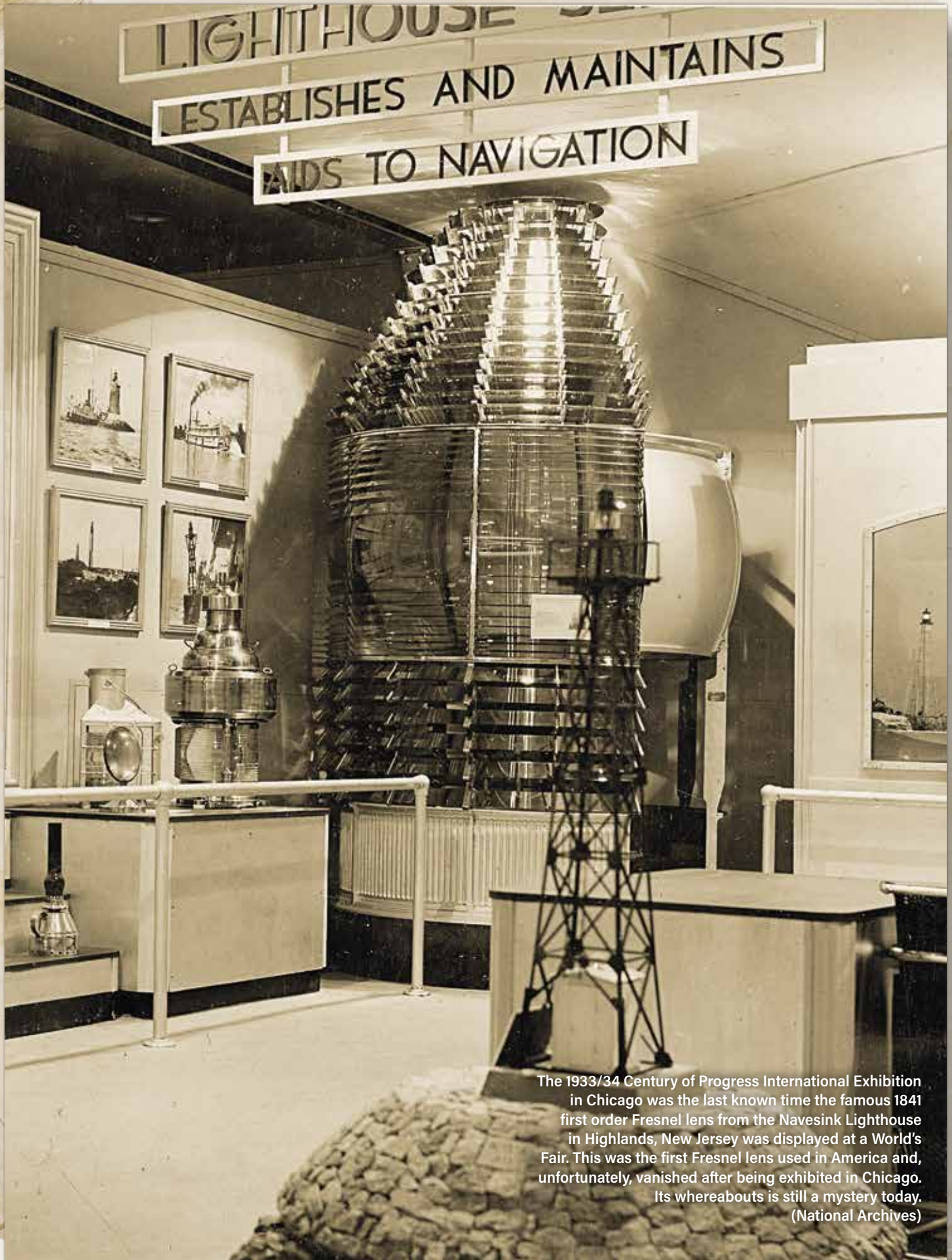
SIGNATURE OF PERSON  
WHOSE NAME AND PHOTOGRAPH APPEAR HEREON.  
*Mrs. F. Samuelson*

8024

15	30	45	60	75	90	105	120
14	29	44	59	74	89	104	119
13	28	43	58	73	88	103	118
12	27	42	57	72	87	102	117
11	26	41	56	71	86	101	116
10	25	40	55	70	85	100	115
9	24	39	54	69	84	99	114
8	23	38	53	68	83	98	113
7	22	37	52	67	82	97	112
6	21	36	51	66	81	96	111
5	20	35	50	65	80	95	110
4	19	34	49	64	79	94	109
3	18	33	48	63	78	93	108
2	17	32	47	62	77	92	107
1	16	31	46	61	76	91	106

P. J. Bone Secretary  
Lenox P. Lohr GENERAL MANAGER

Fred's wife, Augusta Samuelson, was also given a courtesy season exhibitor's pass, good for 150 entries to the Century of Progress International Exhibition in Chicago. She apparently used 25 of them. (Courtesy of Paige Garwood)



LIGHTHOUSE  
ESTABLISHES AND MAINTAINS  
AIDS TO NAVIGATION

The 1933/34 Century of Progress International Exhibition in Chicago was the last known time the famous 1841 first order Fresnel lens from the Navesink Lighthouse in Highlands, New Jersey was displayed at a World's Fair. This was the first Fresnel lens used in America and, unfortunately, vanished after being exhibited in Chicago. Its whereabouts is still a mystery today. (National Archives)



CE  
NS



According to the June 1933 *Lighthouse Service Bulletin* describing the Century of Progress International Exhibition in Chicago, "On account of the limited space available, the Lighthouse Service exhibit features for the most part smaller equipment and models in place of buoys, fog signal machinery, and other large equipment shown at former exhibitions." However, the lighthouse exhibit still drew over 100,000 visitors just in the month of June alone. (National Archives)

# Fred Samuelson's Lighthouse Album



*In an article on North Manitou Island Lighthouse, published in the December 2009 issue of Lighthouse Digest, we wrote, “[Fred] Samuelson loved photography and even built his own darkroom in the basement of the keeper’s house. He reportedly took numerous photographs of lighthouses and other lighthouse keepers. Those photos today, if they could be located, would be a valuable addition to preserving lighthouse history for future generations.” Happily, through our ongoing research efforts, we have uncovered their whereabouts and hope you will enjoy a sampling of the rediscovery of this photographic legacy from over 100 years ago!*

29-year-old Fred Samuelson is showing off his pet rabbit at North Manitou Island Lighthouse in 1900, two years after he arrived there as head keeper. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



From 1904, John L. Paetschow (1882-1960) enjoyed his job running the mailboat and ferrying passengers between North Manitou Island and Leland, Michigan.... until someone stole his boat. He could not afford another one, so he joined the Lighthouse Service again in 1918, permanently this time, at North Manitou Island Light. The next year, he switched to Muskegon South Pierhead Lighthouse, and then transferred to Ludington North Breakwater Light in 1920 so he could serve again under his good friend, Frederick A. Samuelson, whom he had known for over 20 years. When Fred retired in 1937, John took over as head keeper at Ludington until 1941 when he then transferred to Manitowoc Breakwater Lighthouse, Wisconsin, for the last 12 years of his 35-year career until his mandatory retirement at age 70 on July 31, 1953. He passed away seven years later and is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Sutton's Bay, Michigan. (Courtesy Leelanau Historical Society)



Fred Samuelson is enjoying a bird's eye view from the top of the flag mast in front of the keepers' dwelling at the North Manitou Island Lighthouse in 1903. (Courtesy of Paige Garwood)

# Fred Samuelson's Lighthouse Album



Fred Samuelson is driving his Upton Touring Car with mail carrier, John Paetschow, sitting next to him in the passenger seat in Leland, Michigan, circa 1906. John had served as Fred's assistant at North Manitou Island Lighthouse from 1903 to 1904. John wrote on the photo back, "1st car I ever rode in." (Courtesy Leelanau Historical Society)



Gustie Samuelson lived for 32 years at lighthouses where Fred was stationed during their married life. She had their first child, Bernice, while living at North Manitou Island Light and Agnes, Ralph and Helen were born after Fred transferred to Ludington North Breakwater Light. She is shown here driving her horse and buggy to the lighthouse on North Manitou sometime between 1905 to 1909. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)

# Fred Samuelson's Lighthouse Album



Gustie Samuelson (2nd from right) is shown along with her women friends standing rather precariously in a boat at Swenson's Dock in 1905. It would be interesting to know what happened next and how many of those fine hats might have gotten wet that day. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



Augusta Swenson Samuelson shown in 1906 inside the dwelling at North Manitou Island Lighthouse. Note the intricate wallpaper. The keepers' house at North Manitou was described as opulent compared to other homes on the island. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



Fred Samuelson is at the beach on the south side of the channel in Ludington with his two daughters, Bernice and Agnes and one of their friends in 1913. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



The keepers of Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse in 1913: (L-R) 2nd Assistant Otto Fricke, 1st Assistant Fred Bennett and Head Keeper Fred Samuelson. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



The keepers and their families set sail in Fred Samuelson's motor launch at Ludington, Michigan. (L-R) Keeper Fred Bennett, Mrs. Gustie Samuelson, Mrs. Clara Bennett, Agnes Samuelson, Ralph Samuelson (white hat), William Bennett, Bernice Samuelson, Hazel Bennett, Bennett aunt and uncle, Gordon Bennett. Fred G. Bennett would transfer to Manistee North Pierhead Light by 1919. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



While Fred had his interest in photography, Gustie enjoyed all kinds of needlecraft and was an avid weaver. She set up her loom inside the North Manitou Island Lighthouse between 1906 to 1909 to occupy her spare hours. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)

# Fred Samuelson's Lighthouse Album



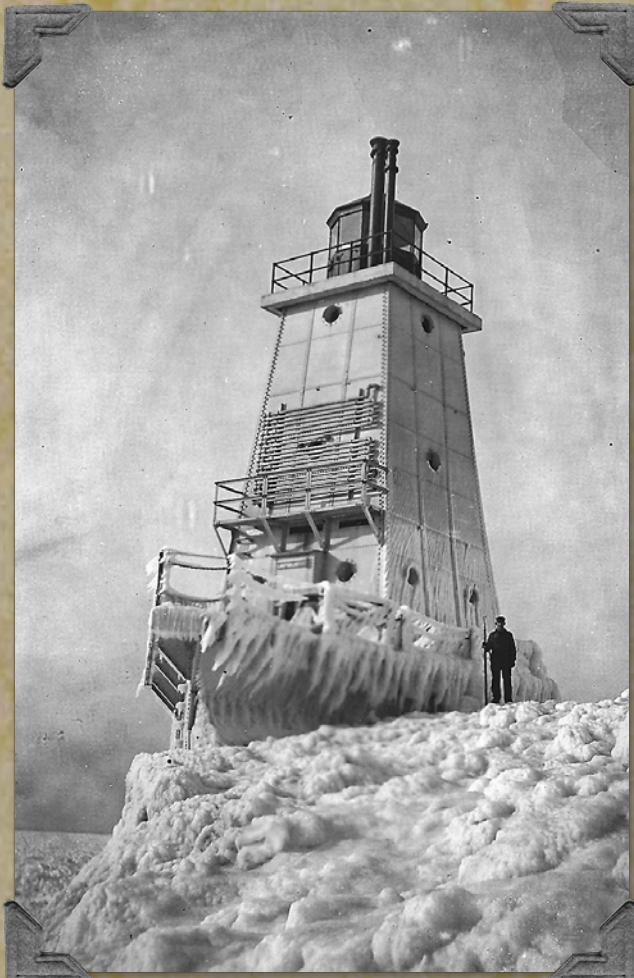
Because the Ludington lighthouse dwelling was across the channel from the school, the keepers had the daily task of rowing any of their school-age children over and back. Bernice Samuelson is on the far left of this c.1916 photo showing her father, keeper Fred A. Samuelson, working with the boat. It must have been a burden to the families, especially in the winter months, before the dwelling was finally moved across the channel after 1924. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



The "school bus" leaves for school across the channel at Ludington with Hazel Bennett, Bernice and Agnes Samuelson aboard and Fred Samuelson "driving" in c.1915. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



Fred Samuelson took this rare early photo of the Ludington South Breakwater Light in winter. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



Fred took this icy photo of one of his assistants next to the "new" Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse that was built in 1924. The lighthouse is still standing today and open to visitors seasonally. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)

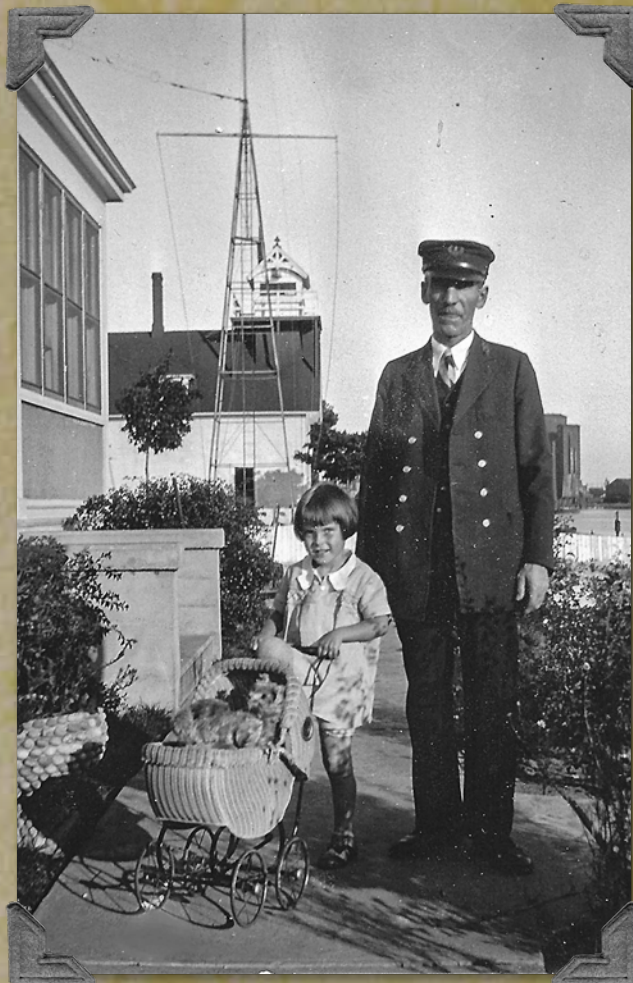


Fred is behind the camera in this c.1920 photo of his family and first assistant Henry Wierzbach's family at Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse. (l-r) Front: Helen Samuelson, Wierzbach daughter, Ralph Samuelson, Lucy Wierzbach. Middle: Bernice Samuelson, Agnes Samuelson, Wierzbach daughter. Rear: Henry Wierzbach, Augusta Samuelson. Henry Weirzbach also served at Poverty Island (1917-1918), Rawley Point (1920-1930), Manitowoc North Breakwater (1930-1931), Two Rivers Pierhead (1931-1940), Green Bay Harbor Entrance (1940-1942), and Cana Island (1942-1947) lighthouses during his 30-year career. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)

# Fred Samuelson's Lighthouse Album



Two enclosed porches were added to the keepers' duplex after the move to the north side of the channel.  
(Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



Fred Samuelson and his granddaughter, Shirley Meador, stand outside the keepers' duplex at Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse, c. 1933. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



This 1935 photo of the 1920s Ludington South Breakwater Light shows how difficult it was to maintain in the winters. Fred had to chop ice off the steps to get to the top to relight it whenever high waves washed over it and doused the light.  
(Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



Fred Samuelson and his friend, Charlie Johnson, show off the sturgeon they caught while fishing sometime after Fred's retirement.  
(Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)

# Fred Samuelson's Lighthouse Album



Some of Fred Samuelson's photos were good enough to accompany district reports to Washington D.C. This one shows the winter ice conditions at the Ludington breakwater station in March of 1916. First assistant Fred Bennett stands on top of the ice pack. (National Archives)

This 1912 photo shows the keepers' dwelling at Ludington North Breakwater Light in its original location on the south side of the channel across from the Coast Guard Station. It was moved to the north side sometime shortly after 1924 so that the lighthouse keepers' children could get to school without having to be rowed across and back every day. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



Another view of the keepers' duplex after the move. Fred was known for his landscaping, so he probably did the planting of the beautiful surrounding flower beds. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)

# Fred Samuelson's Lighthouse Album



This 1905 photo of Augusta "Gustie" Swenson (1883-1975) was taken shortly before her marriage to Fred Samuelson later that year at the North Manitou Island Lighthouse. She was a local girl, born and raised on the Island, so well-suited to being a lighthouse keeper's wife. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



Three-year-old Agnes Samuelson enjoys swinging in the backyard of the keepers' dwelling at Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse c.1913 before the house was moved across the channel. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



Fred was transferred to Ludington North Breakwater Light in 1909 and Agnes was born the following year. Proud papa Fred, with Agnes on his lap, and two-year-old Bernice are shown enjoying some time together in the gardens surrounding the keepers' house. (Courtesy of Maribeth Schmock Runyan)



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# Keeper of the Lights

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If you have made provisions for SPLKA, as part of your end of life giving, we thank you and would like to hear about it. Making us part of your future plans is a meaningful way to sustain our organization, so that we can continue to protect our four lights.

SPLKA is instituting a new program called Keepers of the Lights Legacy Society. In short, you will be recognized for your support during your lifetime, by helping SPLKA financially afterwards.

The help to SPLKA can take several forms: life insurance, marketable securities, and/or bequests. With a quick call to your insurance agent, you can easily name SPLKA as a beneficiary to your policy. If you wish to earmark specific marketable securities in your estate portfolio, or if you wish to specify a bequest, your financial advisor, tax advisor, or attorney can assist in this process. In addition, SPLKA is a 501c3 corporation and may provide tax relief for contributions such as these.

As a member of the Keepers of the Light Legacy Society you will receive a lapel pin, recognition on SPLKA properties and receive a Keepers of the Light Legacy Society specific newsletter. So how do you become a member of this elite group? Simply provide the executive director with documentation that you have committed an estate gift (insurance, securities, or bequest) of at least \$2000.

Finally, there is one additional way you can help. Loved ones frequently publish in an obituary that in lieu of flowers donations be made to a specific organization. We hope you will consider SPLKA as that organization. Thank you in advance for considering SPLKA in your estate plans.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact one of the SPLKA Finance Committee members listed below:

Al Cocconi • [splkapresident@gmail.com](mailto:splkapresident@gmail.com)

Rob Vensas • [rob\\_vensas@yahoo.com](mailto:rob_vensas@yahoo.com)

Susan Land • [sland1225@comcast.net](mailto:sland1225@comcast.net)

Ted Robertson • [rted3241@gmail.com](mailto:rted3241@gmail.com)

With regards,  
The SPLKA Board of Directors

# U.S. Lighthouse Society's Passport Program

SPLKA sells official Lighthouse passports in our gift shops for \$15.00 each or you can order yours today by calling the office at 231-845-7417.

We have the stamps at each of our lights to get you started in the passport program.

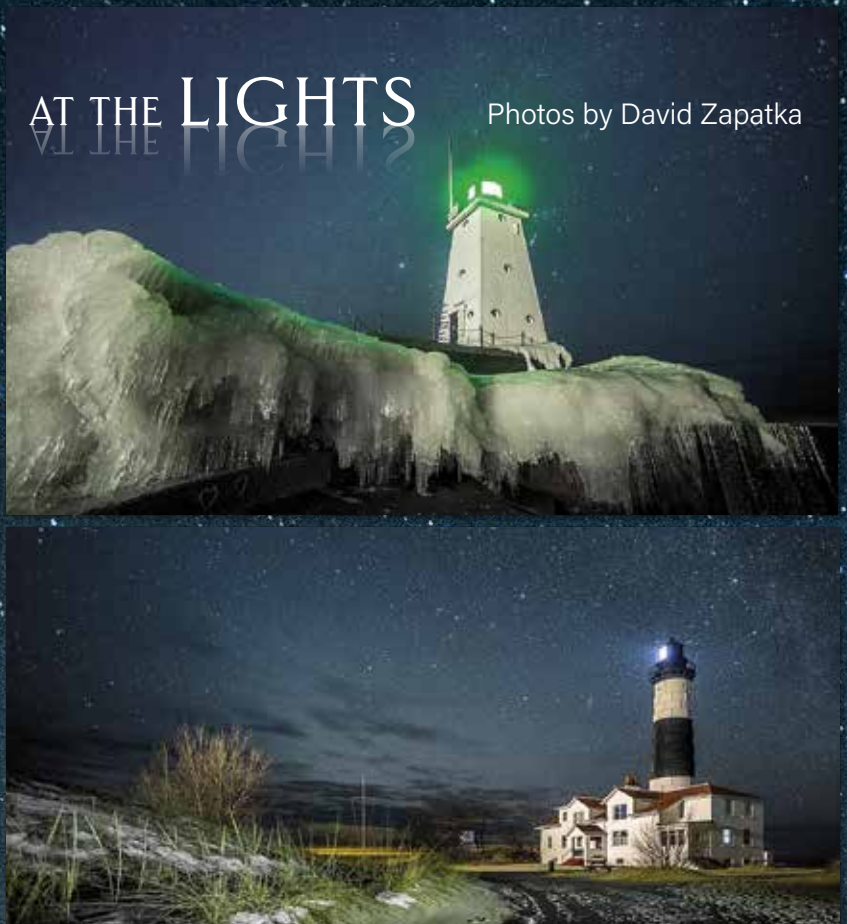
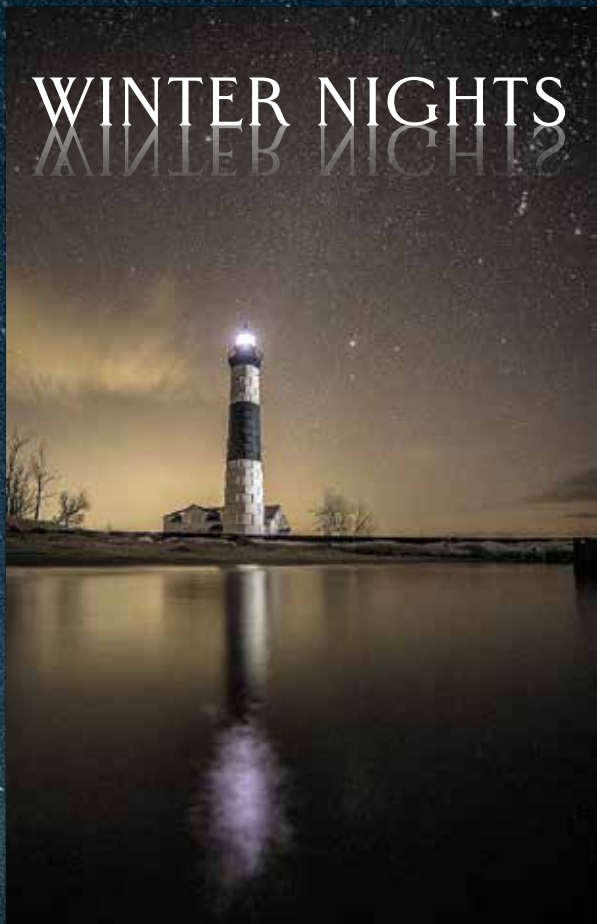


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